

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Field Museum of Natural History

AND/OR COMMON

same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER E. Roosevelt Rd. @ South Lake Shore Dr.

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Illinois

VICINITY OF  
CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Cook

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY  | OWNERSHIP                                 | STATUS   | PRESENT USE   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT               | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED         | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE          | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED                  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH  | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS            | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                 | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS       | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED             | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC         |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION     |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                          | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER                |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Field Museum of Natural History ( a not-for-profit corp.)

STREET & NUMBER

E. Roosevelt Rd. @ So. Lake Shore Dr.

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Cook County Recorder's Office--Cook County Bldg.

STREET & NUMBER

Clark & Washington Sts.,

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

STATE

Illinois

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Illinois Historic Structures Survey

DATE

1973

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Glessner House--IHSS Office

CITY, TOWN

1800 S. Prairie Av.

STATE

Illinois

**7 DESCRIPTION**

|   |                                       |                                    |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>CONDITION</b>                              |                                       | <b>CHECK ONE</b>                   | <b>CHECK ONE</b>                                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD                 | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED   | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR                 | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |                                    | DATE <u>May 1975</u>                              |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

**DESCRIPTION:** The Field Museum of Natural History overlooks Lake Michigan at the bifurcation of South Lake Shore Dr. at 12th St. (Roosevelt Rd.). The north entrance has a grand vista down Lake Shore Dr. towards the Loop and Grant Park.

The building is 350 ft. wide (n-s) and 700 ft. long. It is constructed of load bearing brick walls surfaced with Georgia white marble. Interior flooring is of hollow tile supported by steel posts and beams. The building contains three floors and a basement set on a 30' high landfill with concrete basement floor laid over a shallow foundation set on 60' pine pillings driven in clusters.

The two monumentally scaled entrances ( n&s aides) with wide terraced steps lead up to porches with massive Ionic columns. Carytid porches frame both entrances beyond which the walls are articulated with a continuous Ionic colonade two stories in height.

The building is planned according to formal principals with a hugh central nave running through the building from north to south. This room is 70' x 280', 76' high, surrounded by a gallery and topped with a segmented flat skylight ceiling. The main and second floor areas of the two wings are used for exhibition space with the third floor devoted to office space. The basement level houses lunchrooms, a 900 seat theater, small exhibition areas, storage and mechanical facilities.

Most of the interior ornamentation, derived from Greek classicism as on the exterior, is lavished on the great hall and two small exhibition rooms located at either end of the building to the east and west.

**HISTORY:** The idea of a natural history museum for Chicago began at the time of the World's Columbian Exhibition as a result of the collections brought together here for the fair. Originally installed in the old Fine Arts building of the Exposition in Jackson Park, the Natural History Museum grew and prospered and by 1902 its directors were looking for a permanent home. Working drawings for a new building were completed in 1906 and a contract to build was let in 1911. Because of a change in location from Jackson Park to Grant Park, construction was delayed until 1915. Further delays were caused by World War I with the museum finally opening its doors to the public in 1921.

It was Marshall Field, a capitalist engaged in the mercantile business who provided the major impetus toward erecting a permanent facility with a pledge of \$ 4-million dollars in 1904. Following his death in 1905, Marshall's younger brother, Stanley, for whom the Great Hall is named, assumed charge of museum planning.

(see continuation sheet)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Field Museum of Natural History--Chicago

HISTORY CON'T.

Architects for the building were Daniel H. Burnham & Co.; Graham, Burnham and Co.; and Graham, Anderson, Probst & White, The latter two being successors to the original Burnham firm. The chief designers were Daniel H. Burnham and Edward R. Graham.

In designing the building in a Greek Classic style these men followed the wishes of the major donor, Marshall Field, who suggested they follow the style which prevailed at the Columbian Exposition. The model for details of the design was the Erechtheum on the Acropolis at Athens, a building which utilized the caryatid motif and picturesque use of cornice lines brought together at different levels.

All interior and exterior sculpture was executed by Henry Hering.

Early in the 1960's architect Harry Weese added a fountain and made some other minor changes to Stanley Field Hall. This included modernization of an area at gallery level behind the curved staircase on the south end of the hall. There were no major changes in the design of the hall or the remainder of the interior.

|  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| PERIOD                                   | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |   |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499       | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599       | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799       | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899       | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |  |  |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |  |  |

SPECIFIC DATES **1906-21**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT **Daniel H. Burnham & Co. et al**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Of the monumental classic buildings erected in Chicago during the period when historical accuracy and architectural scholarship were the aims of conventional architecture, the Field Museum is no doubt the largest and may well be the finest. Its immense interior hall remains one of the grandest interior spaces in the city. The architect, Burnham & Co., and Graham, Anderson, Probst & White, stood at the head of their profession as far as revived classicism was concerned. Siting of this great colonnaded structure at the southern focus of Lake Shore Dr. through Grant Park leaves little to be desired from the urbanistic point of view. As one of the most prestigious museums in the world whose name derives from its chief benefactor, himself one of Chicago's most famous merchants, there can be little question of the tremendous significance of the Field Museum for Chicago, Illinois and the Nation.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Architectural Record, Vol.56, No.1, July, 1924

The Architectural Forum, Vol.XLII, No.2, Feb., 1925

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

|   |       |         |          |
|---|-------|---------|----------|
| A | _____ | _____   | _____    |
|   | ZONE  | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | _____ | _____   | _____    |

|   |       |         |          |
|---|-------|---------|----------|
| B | _____ | _____   | _____    |
|   | ZONE  | EASTING | NORTHING |
| D | _____ | _____   | _____    |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |
|       |      |        |      |

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE **Thomas G. Yamul & Paul E. Sprague**, Field Surveyor & Director

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| ORGANIZATION                               | DATE                |
| <b>Illinois Historic Structures Survey</b> | <b>May 1975</b>     |
| STREET & NUMBER                            | TELEPHONE           |
| <b>1800 S. Prairie Av.</b>                 | <b>312-793-2058</b> |
| CITY OR TOWN                               | STATE               |
| <b>Chicago</b>                             | <b>Illinois</b>     |

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS.

NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DATE